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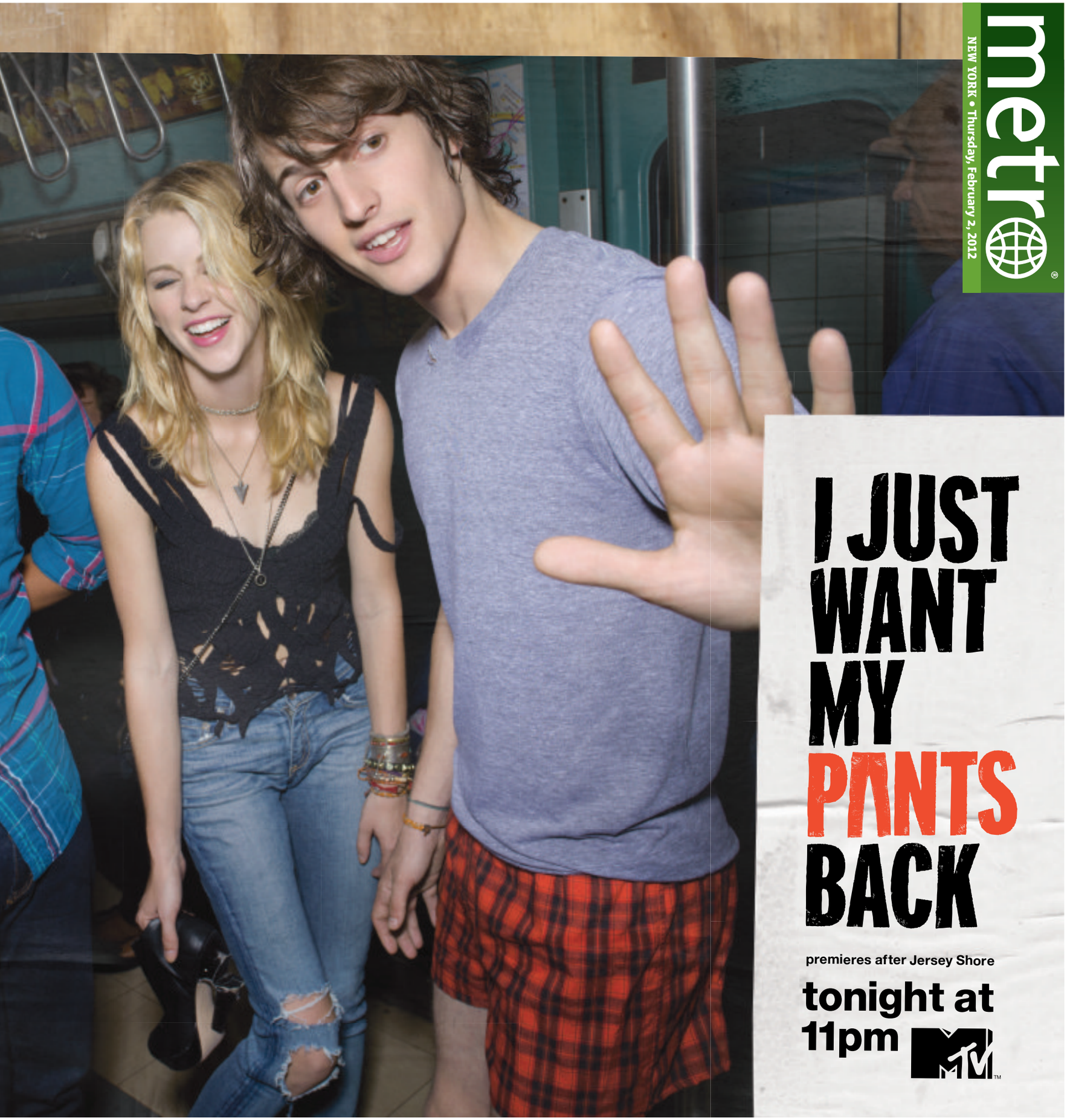
NEW YORK • Thursday, February 2, 2012



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HOW TO PREVENT DATING OVERLOAD {page 13}

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Thursday, February 2, 2012

Shot cop's first wish: To see his baby girl

As he was rushed into trauma ward, injured Officer Kevin Brennan asked about 6-week-old daughter Maeve She was the 'first thing on his mind,' family says {page 04}

▶ Maeve Brennan was born six weeks ago. Her father, NYPD Officer Kevin Brennan, 29, was shot in the head at point-blank range Tuesday night.

Metropolitik

Does Romney really not care for the poor?

GOP front-runner stumbles over populist message Tax, budget proposals tell the true story of Mr. 1 percent {page 09}

'Oh, you shouldn't have!'

Need help picking a special something for that special someone? {page 14}

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Boy fighting for his life after attack by brother

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT. A 23-year-old Brooklyn man attacked and beat his mother and 9-year-old brother with a hammer yesterday morning, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

The man, who police believe might be mentally ill, seriously injured both people. The mother is in stable condition but the young boy is not expected to survive, Kelly said.

The incident happened at 6 a.m. yesterday. Police responded to the home after the mother reportedly called 911 that morning from their Bedford-Stuyvesant brownstone.

Both were taken to the hospital with injuries from the hammer. The mother is now in satisfactory condition, Kelly said.

The New York Post reports that officers arrive to find the suspect being restrained in the basement by another brother, age 24.

The man is now at Woodhull Hospital undergoing a psychiatric evolution. Police had been called to the home before for domestic violence incidents, according to reports. **ALISON BOWEN**

Recovering NYPD officer asks for his newborn girl

Police Commissioner calls Police Officer Kevin Brennan's survival 'a miracle' Police charge man who has a long rap sheet with shooting

Kevin Brennan and his wife, Janet, live in Garden Park City, N.Y.

As soon as injured Police Officer Kevin Brennan got to Bellevue Hospital, where he was rushed after being shot in the head Tuesday night, he asked for his newborn daughter.

"We were at the hospital; he was still bandaged and getting CAT-scanned," Robert Masi, Brennan's brother-in-law, told Metro last night. "He was conscious and talking. He asked for his daughter. She was definitely the first thing on his mind."

According to Masi, who was at Bellevue on Tuesday night, Brennan asked about his daughter before he underwent life-saving surgery to remove the bullet from his head.

Brennan, 29, remains in critical but stable condition as he recovers from a bullet that came within inches of his brain and lodged between his skin and skull. He was shot while responding to a call of shots fired at the Bushwick Houses in Brooklyn.

The officer has yet to see his firstborn, and only, child, Maeve, born only six weeks before the shooting.

Masi said he and his wife have been taking care of the infant at their New Hyde Park home while Brennan's wife, Janet, remains at her husband's hospital bed. Officers at Bellevue told Metro a steady stream of cops visited there throughout the day.

Masi said having a cop in the family means always dreading that call.

"This is something you think about and hope never happens," he said. "And when it does, you have to circle the wagons and hope for the best."

"He's a great guy, he's a dedicated police officer," continued Masi of his brother-in-law, who has served on the NYPD since 2005.

"He puts his life on the line every day," he said.

NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly called Brennan's survival "a miracle."

"This officer was shot at point-blank range," said Kelly. "Thank God he's alive."

Masi said Janet is doing as well as can be expected.

"It was a tough call to get. Any young wife and mother would be nervous, and we're very proud of her," Masi said. "It's really an amazing story — an inch away from his brain."

He said the family is happy, but remains cautious.

"You're never out of the woods until you are out of the woods," Masi said.

ALISON BOWEN and **CARLY BALDWIN**

Shooting timeline

Gun used in shooting

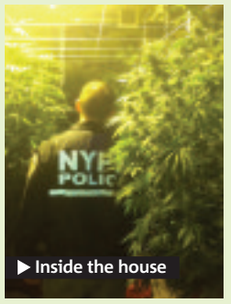
- The shooting occurred at about 9 p.m. in a parking lot outside the Brooklyn Houses at 370 Bushwick Ave.
- Officers first responded to a police radio call that warned of shots fired.
- Suspect Luis Ortiz had shot two times at one man, Kelly said, which were the shots reported. "This was the result of a staredown," Kelly said.
- As the officers arrived, Brennan ran into the building, and Kelly said video shows Brennan on top of Ortiz. The door had a panic bar, which locked when closed, so two other officers behind him couldn't get in, Kelly said.
- Video shows Brennan and Ortiz fighting before the shot, Kelly said, before officers could get to Brennan.

Man charged

NEW YORK. Police arrested the man who they say is responsible for the shooting. Police found Luis "Baby" Ortiz at 11:20 p.m. Tuesday inside a Bushwick apartment, just hours after Brennan was shot, according to the NYPD. "Baby" may be a nickname for his small size — he is 5 feet 9 inches and 150 pounds, Kelly said. Ortiz, 21, has 14 arrests under his belt. **METRO/AB**

Two months, two cops shot

NEW YORK. Tuesday's shooting comes a month after NYPD officer Sgt. Peter Figoski was shot and killed in Cypress Hills while interrupting a drug robbery. "We have someone who's dedicated his life to protecting us, who has had a much too close brush with death," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.



Inside the house

$7.5 million marijuana operation

BRONX. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said yesterday a five-story house full of marijuana plants in the Bronx was a "sophisticated operation" that brought in $3 million each year for those who grew and sold the pot, and about $7.5 million total.

Three people were arrested after cops arrived at the house Tuesday afternoon, finding 593 marijuana plants and 75 pounds of packaged marijuana in the building.

Police charged Brian Munoz, 24, Diego Reyes, 25, and Victor Reyes, 23. "They were into it in a big way," Kelly said. **METRO/AB**

Shopping cart attack

BRONX. A shopping cart pushed off the ledge of a three-story parking garage injured two livery cab drivers on Sunday. The drivers, who suffered severe head injuries, are in a stable yet critical condition at a local hospital. The president of the New York Federation of Taxi Drivers said the incident may have been caused as the result of a turf war between cabbies and livery car drivers, according to NY1. **METRO/SV**

In the news

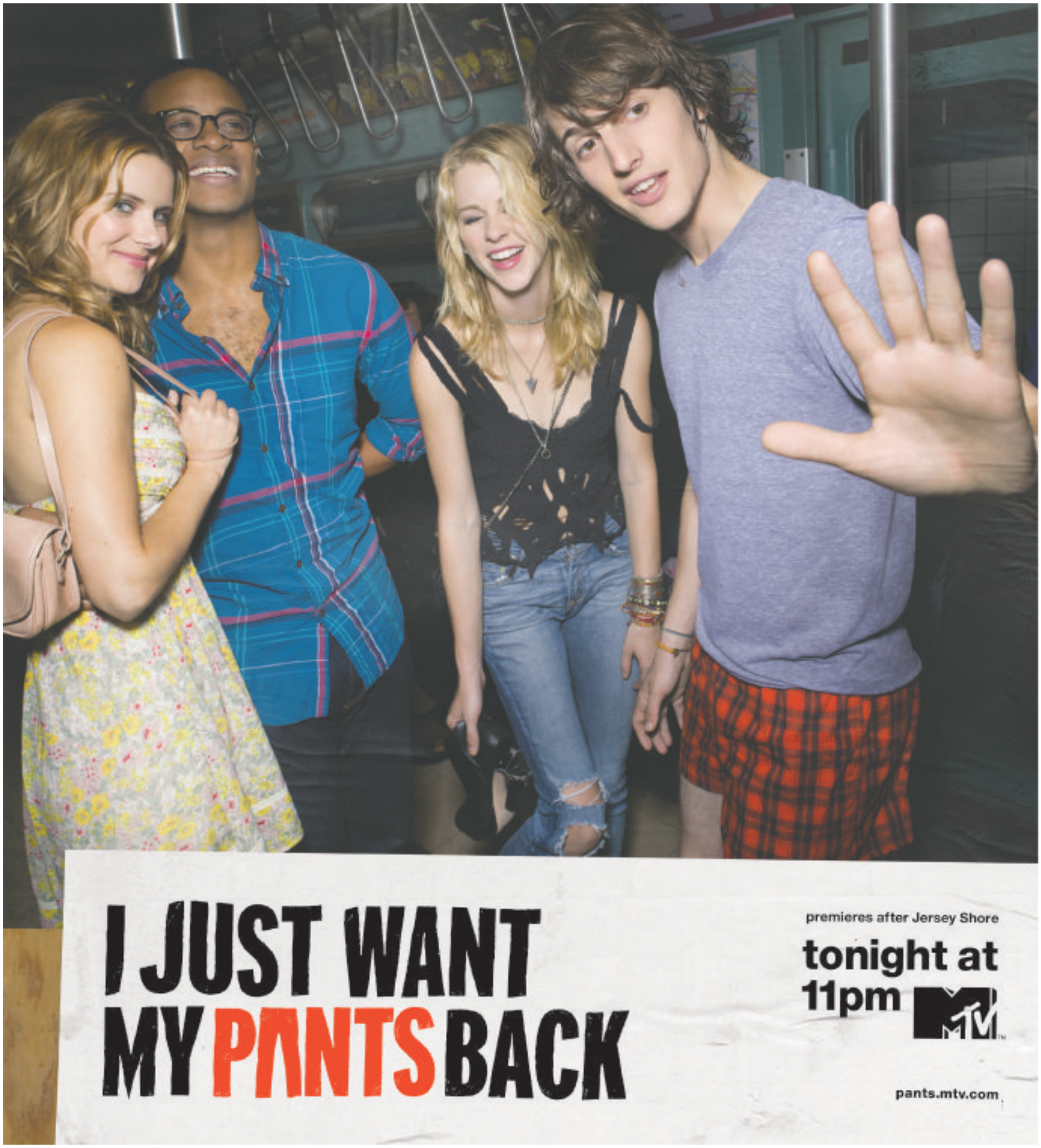
Terminal A shut down at Newark airport

Terminal A at Newark Airport was briefly shut down yesterday after someone passed through a security checkpoint without being properly screened. The A-2 checkpoint area was shut down beginning at 11 a.m., until authorities located the missing person, at about 1 p.m. All 190 passengers who had already passed through the checkpoint were re-screened. **METRO/SV**

In the news

$13K for probe

Ex-Congressman Anthony Weiner used campaign funds to hire private investigators last year, asking them to find out if his Twitter account was hacked after crotch-shot photos of him were leaked, financial records revealed Tuesday. Weiner paid $13,000 in campaign contributions to the investigators — only to later admit that he sent the photos out himself. **METRO/CB**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Weather. Warming

▶ New Yorkers take time out to enjoy the bit of summer that sneaked into February.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Hello, sunshine: It's bare-ly winter!

Don't tell Mother Nature, but it's actually February. New York City reached a high of 63 degrees yesterday, according to Weather.com — just four degrees short of the record high for this time of year. New Yorkers took advantage in Central Park in the afternoon by reading, picknicking or just sitting on rocks and benches, soaking up the sunshine. Today won't be as balmy at 51 degrees, but we're hardly complaining. EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN

Man suspected in 15 SoHo apt. burglaries

Police are searching for a man who they say has robbed at least 15 apartments in SoHo over the last five months.

The burglar is believed to be entering the apartments by climbing up the fire escape and sneaking into homes through windows left unlocked. He makes off with jewelry, laptops and other electronics, including iPads, cameras and iPhones, police said.

His first robbery happened on Sept. 28, when he stole jewelry and a laptop from an apartment on Wooster Street. His most recent was on Jan. 17, when he gained entry to an apartment on West Broadway and stole an iPhone and cameras. Later that same day, he broke into a home on Bleeker Street and stole a laptop, police said.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said that crime patterns like these are usually determined by a number of contributing factors.

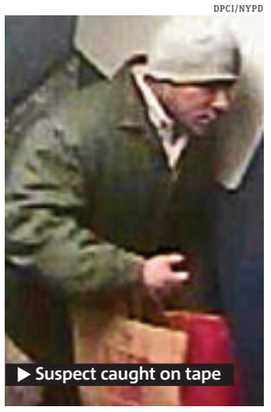
"It usually depends on time, items that were taken, method of entry. Obviously, we look at the video cameras as well. Sometimes you can tie them into a pattern, sometimes you can't," Kelly stated.

Deputy Inspector Edward Winski said the man doesn't appear to be forcing his way into the apartments and is urging local residents to lock all doors and windows, especially those near fire escapes, according to DNAinfo.com.

One victim's apartment had three windows located near a fire escape that could not be locked.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic man with light skin; anyone with information is advised to call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS (8477).

DPCI/NYPD



▶ Suspect caught on tape

$24K

One alleged victim returned home to find $24,000 worth of missing jewelry after she was out of town for three days.

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Afghan coalition plans to end combat role in '13

WASHINGTON. U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the NATO-led coalition fighting in Afghanistan wants to end its primary combat role starting in mid-2013 and drop back to advising Afghan forces that are increasingly taking the lead.

The decision establishes a milestone for leaders of NATO, who in Lisbon in 2010 called for transferring security responsibility nationwide to Afghan forces by the end of 2014.

"We'll still be very much engaged in helping them as we move into 2014," Panetta said yesterday. "It's not going to be the kind of formal combat role that we're involved in now."

The timetable may help resolve a rift in the coalition last week, when French President Nicolas Sarkozy said his nation would withdraw its troops a year earlier than the goal set in Lisbon. Panetta signaled he would press France to get back in line. **BLOOMBERG**

Obama presses congress for homeowners

President Barack Obama yesterday pressed lawmakers to back a $5 billion to $10 billion plan to help U.S. homeowners refinance, part of an election-year package that is unlikely to overcome Republican opposition in Congress.

Obama moved to counter Republican criticisms that the proposal would use taxpayer money to bail out irresponsible borrowers by stressing that only homeowners current on their payments could benefit. Obama sketched out the plan in his State of the Union. **REUTERS**

Facebook files $5B IPO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The preliminary IPO filing sets the stage for a May market of the world's largest social network.

The company founded by Mark Zuckerberg in a Harvard dorm room in 2004 picked Morgan Stanley to take the coveted "lead left" role in what is expected to be the largest IPO ever to emerge from Silicon Valley.

The other four bookrunners chosen were Goldman Sachs, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital and JP Morgan, although the underwriting syndicate could be expanded later, IFR cited the sources as saying.

The preliminary IPO filing sets the stage for a May market of the world's largest social network, IFR reported, a coming-out party that will dwarf almost any before that, including Google Inc.'s $2 billion IPO.

Morgan Stanley's experience in arranging major Internet IPOs — including those of Groupon and Zynga — helped it clinch a pivotal role after an unusually secretive selection process, IFR reported.

Final pricing would not be set for several months, during which the size of the IPO could be increased should investor demand warrant it, IFR added.

$5B

The $5 billion is a preliminary target and could be ramped up in coming months in response to investor demand, IFR added.

The IPO — expected to be one of the largest U.S. market debuts in history — has whipped up a frenzy of investor and media speculation this month, buoying shares in social media peers from RenRen to LinkedIn and igniting fierce competition on Wall Street.

The IPO — a prized trophy for any investment bank — likely set a new standard for how low its arrangers are willing to go on advisory fees to win big business, analysts say. **REUTERS**

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Fresh off Florida win, Romney loosens lips

▶ Mitt Romney's campaign is financed in large part by incredibly wealthy donors. The average contribution to Romney's Restore Our Future super PAC was $103,000; in contrast, the average donation to President Obama's super PAC was only $55.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

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POLITICAL REALISM FOR THE URBAN PROLETARIAT

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Mitt Romney, by his own admission, doesn't really care about America's poor. At least, that's one of the big campaign stories making the rounds following the handsome .01-percenter's win in Florida on Tuesday. But is it true? Let's take a closer look.

On CNN yesterday, Romney said the following: "I'm not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there. If it needs repair, I'll fix it. I'm not concerned about the very rich; they're doing just fine. I'm concerned about the very heart of America, the 90 percent, 95 percent of Americans who right now are struggling."

Romney thinks America's poor don't deserve his concern due to our federal safety net. Unfortunately for the nation's neediest citizens, his proposals seem aimed at unraveling that net. According to a Tax Policy Center analysis, for instance, the wealthy would be the overwhelming beneficiaries of his tax plan — with the lower classes picking up a larger share of the tab — due to a proposed reduction in the corporate rate, elimination of the capital gains rate and a repeal of the estate tax, among other regressive ideas. When tax incomes then drop, politicians are going to look for ways to make up the difference from this social net — programs like Social Security and Medicaid. Romney has also endorsed the Paul Ryan budget proposal, which cuts some $3 trillion from such low-income programs.

Recently released fundraising data also incline one toward skepticism over Romney's claim that he's not out to help the rich. Considering that his super PAC received $17,947,952.77 from a scant 181 contributors, one can see that the very wealthy make up Romney's donor base — the implication being that Romney will likely seek to repay this generosity by helping to enrich them even further.

Moving on, let's parse Romney's claim that he's concerned about the 90-plus percent of struggling Americans, what he would presumably think of as the middle class. (Here we see how, despite claims to the contrary, the Occupy movement has impacted mainstream debate.) According to various estimates, this crucial segment of the American population may actually comprise between 25 percent to 66 percent of households. Assuming a very conservative estimate of 66 percent, with the rich making up the so-called 1 percent, that leaves a third of Americans who can write off any specific Romney concern — 33 percent of the country apparently subsisting on a social net that the presumptive Republican nominee will surely attempt to dismantle while presumably attacking the left over "class warfare." Classy.

See, as Romney himself is countering, context does indeed matter. But then, with Gingrich campaigning against Obama the "food stamp president," the context in this contest is not exactly heartening.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "Inevitability Restored" **SLATE**
- "Republicans' Romnesignation" **THE DAILY BEAST**
- "Newt Gingrich loses Florida — and reminds us why" **RIGHT TURN**
- "Now Newt May Get Even Nastier" **MOTHER JONES**
- "House GOP seeks to bar the use of welfare funds at strip clubs" **THE HILL**
- "The media ♥ Newt Gingrich" **WASHINGTON POST**
- "Women abandon Gingrich" **ASSOCIATED PRESS**
- "Romney Team Silent On Key Offshore Tax Avoidance Question" **TPM**
- "Brad Pitt's next role: Newt Gingrich?" **POLITICO**

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

– Dorothy Robinson will return on Feb. 7.

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jessica Simpson is feeling puffy, Josh Groban isn't worried about Newt Gingrich's plans, Jewel is enjoying life on the ranch and Steve Martin is aware of how powerful he is.

@JessicaSimpson: Woke up looking like the lip injection fairy visited me in the night! Is this how pregnancy face begins?! Yikes!

@joshgroban: Newt's moon colony will cost us nothing. It will be paid for with moon money printed at a moon mint by a to-be-appointed moon treasurer.

@jeweljk: We have 56 calves on the ground- SO cute- ya just wanna hug them all!

@SteveMartinToGo: PLEASE DO NOT READ IF YOU ARE EASILY HYPNOTIZED: You are feeling sleepy.

Jewel

Relax: There will be no mini Snooki

For a few brief, terrifying moments yesterday, we feared **Snooki** was pregnant.

It all started with an ugly, horrible, breakfast-ruining rumor from RadarOnline. "She's been telling people that she has a big announcement coming," a source told the site, adding that boyfriend **Jionni LaValle** had been sharing the news with close family and friends.

A photo search mercifully didn't reveal a Snooki baby bump. But it also suspiciously failed to turn up the expected number of drunk duck faces — say it ain't sober!

Finally, she made an appearance on **Opie & Anthony** to set the record straight: There will be no spawn of Snooki. "Why are people calling me fat?" she wondered. "That's so rude!"

It is rude, Snooks. It is rude and we won't stand for it.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Clooney and Keibler

Listen to how private she is

Stacy Keibler is a very private person, even if she is dating **George Clooney**. "I have always tried to stay as private as I can be, and George is a very private person — and so, yes, it is hard to try and retain some sort of normalcy and privacy at times," she tells the Huffington Post.

Did you catch the George Clooney part? That involves being beautiful and famous and primping for the SAG Awards. Do tell, Stacy: "It was really fun picking a dress that's comfortable, and easy was the key. Then just figuring it out: 'How am I going to do my hair?'"

Born this way, please

While we don't (yet) have to worry about a wild pack of **Snookis** terrorizing the Jersey Shore for generations to come, **Lady Gaga** is thinking babies — but not with her current boyfriend, **Taylor Kinney**. "I want a baby from an Italian — possibly Sicilian — donor," the singer says in an interview with Spain's Radio Ibiza.

A terrestrial, eh? You're losing your edge, Gaga.

Talking points

Don Cornelius: 1936-2012

"Soul Train" producer and host **Don Cornelius** was found dead in his Los Angeles home early yesterday morning from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Cornelius created the show in 1970 and hosted it until 1993. "He was a true television visionary, and his contributions to African-American culture, music and entertainment are incomparable. The outpouring of affection and tributes to his legacy are a true testament to the profound impact that his life's work had on many generations," said **Kenard Gibbs**, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, in a statement.

▶ Cornelius

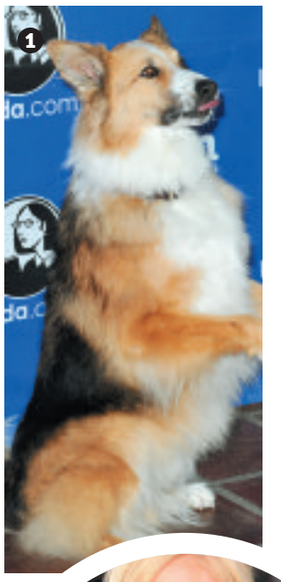
Reality star Leslie Carter dies at 25

Leslie Carter — younger sister of Backstreet Boys' **Nick Carter** and a star of "House of Carters" — died Tuesday in New York. No details have been released regarding the cause of death. "Our family is grieving right now, and it's a private matter. We are deeply saddened for the loss of our beloved sister, daughter and granddaughter, Leslie Carter. We request the utmost privacy during this difficult time," her family said in a statement.

Scarlett moving on — and moving

▶ Johansson

After her divorce from **Ryan Reynolds** and brief relationship with **Sean Penn**, **Scarlett Johansson** appears to be dating a new man, a New York advertising executive named **Nate Naylor**, according to People magazine. "They've been dating for five months," a source says, though the two have been much more public with their affection in the past week, strolling around New York City with arms around each other. Meanwhile, Johansson is said to be looking for an apartment in London — primarily to avoid Reynolds and his girlfriend, "Gossip Girl" star **Blake Lively**. "She was always a little uncomfortable about the fact that Ryan and Blake worked together while she was still married to him," a source tells the Daily Mail. A rep for Johansson would only say, "She is not making London her permanent base."



Red carpets that went to the dogs

We're already bored with the gowns. But you know what we never get tired of? Puppies. Here are some of the best mutt struts in the past year — plus a couple of more surprising critters for good measure.

1: Meet **Kasey**, who stars in the upcoming "Darling Companion" along with Diane Keaton.

2: No handler needed: Skateboarding pup **Tillman** is a red carpet-worthy star in his own right.

3: From what we can tell, no one has paraded a ferret down the runway since **Paris Hilton** did in 2005.

4: Is it just us, or does **Salma Hayek** look a little nervous at this "Puss in Boots" photocall?

5: Richard Belzer brought a good friend along to the Directors Guild of America Honors.

6: Betty White puckered up at the American Humane Association's Hero Dog Award party.

7: "Tintin" star **Jamie Bell** gets a snuggle from a Snowy look-alike.

8: The best thing about awards season this year: "The Artist" star **Uggie**'s red carpet tricks.

9: Ice-T, **Coco** and their pooch, **Spartacus**, attended the Long Island Bulldog Rescue Party in December.

1: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
2: JEFF R. BOTTARI/GETTY IMAGES
3: JASON MERRITT/FILMMAGIC
4: EPSILON/GETTY IMAGES
5: MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES
6: WIREIMAGE
7: AFP
8: JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC
9: JOHNNY NUNEZ/WIREIMAGE

TV watch list

MTV

▶ "I Just Want My Pants Back" premieres tonight.

'I Just Want My Pants Back'

DRAMA. Yes, life certainly is tough when you have a hot one-night stand who steals your favorite skinny jeans. The stylized pilot (Doug Liman serves as producer) of this twentysomething drama plays like an hour-long "S— Brooklyn Hipsters Say" video. **Series premiere, 11 p.m., MTV**

'The Union'

DOCUMENTARY. Elton John reconnected with Leon Russell — a legendary session musician who has played alongside everyone from Frank Sinatra to the Rolling Stones — after 38 years and invited Cameron Crowe to film the resulting music magic. **9 p.m., HBO**

'Grey's Anatomy'

DRAMA. Meredith imagines an alternate life path for herself, as well as her friends and family. Like, "What if Bailey and Cristina had really bad haircuts?" (Trust us. The "Grey's Anatomy" wig department had a field day on this one.) **9 p.m., ABC**

'Archer'

COMEDY. The ISIS team works with the Royal Canadian Mounties to transport a terrorist. Canada has terrorists? **10 p.m., FX**

AMBER RAY

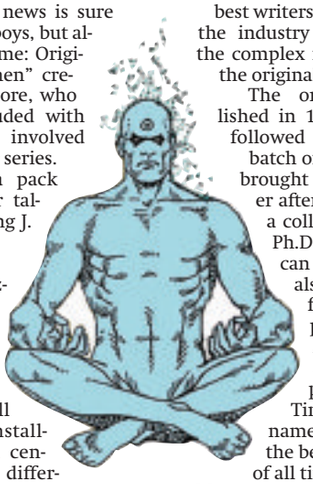
'Watchmen' prequel a go

Series creator Alan Moore will not be involved in new graphic novels

A seven-part prequel series to "Watchmen," one of the most popular graphic novels of all time, will appear this summer, according to DC Entertainment, publishers of DC Comics. The news is sure to excite fanboys, but also disgust some: Original "Watchmen" creator Alan Moore, who has long feuded with DC, is not involved with the new series.

Instead, a pack of other star talents, including J. Michael Straczynski ("The Amazing Spider-Man") and Darwyn Cooke ("Catwoman"), will write installments, each centering on a different character.

"It's our responsibility as publishers to find new ways to keep all of our characters relevant," say DC Entertainment co-publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee. "After 25 years, the 'Watchmen' are classic characters whose time has come for new stories to be told. We sought out the best writers and artists in the industry to build on the complex mythology of the original."



The original, published in 1986 and '87, followed a defunct batch of superheroes brought back together after the death of a colleague. But as Ph.D. candidates can tell you, it's also a deep reflection on post-war American anxiety and paranoia. Time Magazine named it one of the best 100 novels of all time.

Moore, meanwhile, lives in England and continues to write — just not for DC. "Completely shameless," he calls the prequels. MWN

5 REASONS TO GO TO THE MOVIES

Must-see

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▶ Daniel Radcliffe leaves the gates of Hogwarts ... err, no, some other creepy mansion that's more frightening than it is magical in "The Woman in Black."

1 'The Woman in Black'
Daniel Radcliffe's first post-Potter appearance comes in this gothic tale of an 1800s British seaside town terrorized by the ghost of disturbed mother, hell-bent on inspiring the local children to commit suicide. A far cry from Hogwarts, indeed.

2 'Chronicle'
After three friends make a strange discovery in the woods, they find they've gained the power of telekinesis. At first, it's all fun and games — taunting unsuspecting people with made-for-YouTube pranks — but their new abilities soon bring out a darker side.

3 'Big Miracle'
John Krasinski and Drew Barrymore star in this heart-warmer about an Alaskan community coming together to save a family of whales trapped in the Arctic Circle.

4 'Perfect Sense'
Ewan McGregor and Eva Green star as a chef and a scientist respectively, who begin to fall in love just as a global health epidemic causes the entire population to lose their sense of smell, then taste, and then ... ?

5 'Kill List'
Don't call it a horror movie. Don't call it a hit-man movie. "Kill List" is unlike anything you've ever seen before. The last 15 minutes will leave you haunted for days and hunting chat rooms to figure out what it all means. METRO

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How much time should you spend together?

Kirsten Dunst and Garret Hedlund reportedly spent a lot of time together at the Sundance Film Festival. But when they get back to a more regular schedule, the co-stars of the upcoming movie "On the Road" might be faced with that question all new couples must deal with: How do we mesh our worlds without giving up what is important to us individually and possibly losing ourselves in the process? In other words, how much time should we spend together? It is a tricky question, and the answer might not be the same for each partner.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Garrett Hedlund

If one person wants to be together but the other is pulled toward something else — a scheduled appointment, a night out with friends, a quiet evening at home — the first might feel rejected and the other might then feel guilty. You might be able to avoid that if you are clear from the beginning about your boundaries.

Let them know you are excited and looking forward to spending time with them and wish you could make all these other responsibilities disappear, but both of you have things that need your individual attention. As long as you understand that, it will give you the room to do what you need to do and not feel you are neglecting your relationship. The important thing is to emphasize that choosing to do your own thing does not mean you don't want to be together, and if the other person makes the same choice it doesn't mean they don't care about you.

You can be considerate and reassuring by letting each other know when you are free to spend time so that you can both make your separate plans and still preserve time to be with one another.

Ultimately, you want to honor your own needs in tandem with theirs. Hopefully, once Kirsten and Garrett settle into a routine they will be able to do just that.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kirsten Dunst

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER

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Reader love notes

Enter for a chance to win a trip to Madrid! Post your love note online at **metroclassifiedsus.adperfect.com**. We'll run it in print and online on Valentine's Day.

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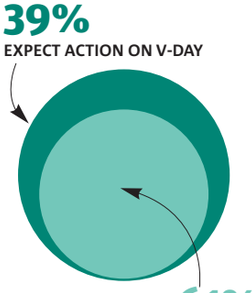
Valentine's Day: Great sexpectations

Only 39 percent of respondents said they expect action if they are dating someone on Valentine's Day. But 61 percent said it's not an expectation.



THINKSTOCK

Match.com recently surveyed its members to find out how singletons feel about the ultimate date night of Feb. 14. The results may surprise. Firstly, 79 percent of singles would rather spend V-Day alone watching a good movie than going on a boring date. Take heed, those about to ask a potential date out for the big day. These results may serve you well.

- **81 percent of respondents would rather have a romantic meal on Valentine's Day than receive a $100 gift card**
- 68 percent find it's more important that their date be a good conversationalist than good-looking.
- **78 percent said that red roses are sweet, while 22 percent think they're cliché.**
- 31 percent of men said that Jennifer Aniston is their celebrity dream date
- **29 percent of women are dying for a date with George Clooney.** METRO

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valentine's day gift guide

Gifts that say 'I heart you'

Look — if you're going to indulge in the cheesiest of holidays, you might as well do it with flare It's all about a little pink, a little red and absolutely no oversize teddy bears

Air Plant Valentine, $13, www.etsy.com/shop/peacocktaco

Graphic Image Mine Leather Luggage Tags, $26 each, www.graphicimage.com

PRISM by Anna Laub New York glasses, $330, www.prismlondon.com

Apivita Relaxing Bath and Shower Gel, $18, www.apivita.com

Dior Garden Clutch Lip and Eye Palette, $75, www.dior.com

Robindira Unsworth 22k Gold Vermeil Ring, $95, www.robindira.com

Oliver Jeffers for Digby & Iona Heart in a Bottle Necklace, $220, www.ojxdi.com

Made By Humans Tea Infuser, $7, www.amazon.com

Jean-Michel Basquiat Candle, $55, www.femininrascal.com

La Prairie Cellular Lip Colour Effects in Berry Glace, $40, www.shoplaprairie.com

Stila Love at First Blush Palette, $14, www.stilacosmetics.com

L'Eau de Chloe fragrance, $65-$85, www.saks.com

Dolce & Gabbana Passion Duo Gloss Fusion Lipstick in Infatuation, $34, www.saks.com

The Body Shop Chocomania Body Scrub, $18, www.thebodyshop.com

Lanson Brut Rose, $49-$59, wine stores nationwide

Diane von Furstenberg Square Dot Barware, $30-$80, www.bloomingdales.com

Butter London polish in Come to Bed Red, $14, www.ulta.com

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TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

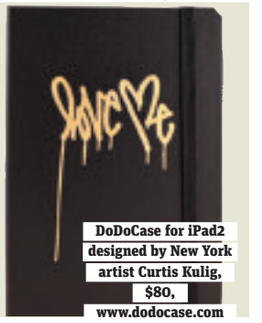
valentine's day gift guide

Gifts for guys

Man Can candle in Campfire, $10, www.man-cans.com

Onassis silk bow tie, $38, www.ona-ssis.com

D.L. & Co skull candle, $90, www.dlcompany.com



DoDoCase for iPad2 designed by New York artist Curtis Kulig, $80, www.dodocase.com

David Beckham Bodywear Collection for H&M briefs, $15, www.hm.com

Gap plaid shirt, $50, www.gap.com

Swatch Gloden Block watch, $245, www.swatch.com

The Art of Shaving Power Shave razor, $175, www.theartofshaving.com

Alternative Apparel Rocky hoodie, $50, www.alternativeapparel.com

Incase Sonic headphones, $150, www.goincase.com

Soundfreaq Sound Step Love speaker, $160, www.soundfreaq.com

Letters

letters@metro.us

Mediating media: Reader reactions

RE: "FOX IS JOURNALISM; MSNBC, RACIALISM": Calvin Fuller calling Fox News "journalists" is hilarious. The muppets would be better anchors, if only Kermit wasn't so busy brainwashing children with an anti-oil agenda, I suppose.
MARISSA COLLADO, ASTORIA

It seems that the Fairleigh Dickinson University poll from Nov. 21, 2011 is correct: Those who watch Fox News have less information about news than those who don't watch the news at all.
CHRISTOPHER BROWN, VIA E-MAIL

Thank you, Metro, for giving me such a big laugh. I had a huge smile on my face all through my morning commute after reading the letter that said "Fox News has journalists." It was interesting that this reader singled out Al Sharpton ("playing the race card") of all the other commentators on MSNBC, when he could have mentioned Joe Scarborough, a white former GOP congressman and conservative.
JANET WALSH, MEDFORD, NJ

If you don't like the race card then stop being a racist.
ANTHONY YOUNG, VIA E-MAIL

To paint Al Sharpton as the face of MSNBC is quite a stretch — just like calling Fox News journalism!
ROBERT LA ROSA., WHITESTONE

Blah blah blah? We're not buying it

RE: "CODED LANGUAGE IN POLITICS?": I would like to tell Rick Santorum and his cronies that, like millions of "blah" people around the country, I work hard every day and have never been on public assistance. In fact, I've been working since I was 16, and at times I've held two jobs. I know that not all Republicans are racist, but with leaders like these, no wonder the overwhelming majority of African-Americans are Democrats!
MELISSA TULIN, VIA E-MAIL

"Rep. Paul may not seem corrupt, but that doesn't make his agenda any less insane."

RE: "RON PAUL SITS AT THE TOP OF THE LEAST-CORRUPTIBLE LIST": I'll grant Rep. Paul's record suggests he's "cleaner" than most of Washington. But does Ms. Donnoe support the whole of his agenda, including the privatization of Social Security, ending environmental and financial regulations or reducing women (herself included) to second-class status? Rep. Paul may not seem corrupt, but that doesn't make his agenda any less insane.
JOSEPH CONNELL, BROOKLYN

Bain, Wall Street: Our toxic elites

Most people on the right agree that Bain Capital did legal business activities, and I agree. Bain Capital did clean up some companies, bettering their management. But I morally disagree with how this organization bought up many more companies and dismantled them for a quick profit, leaving hundreds of thousands of honest, hard workers without jobs. This result was as toxic as all those corporate "Wall Street" banks. Each left destruction in its path.
ROBERT DENNEN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You should give top priority to matters that are of personal importance. You won't be nearly as effective if you have to divide your time juggling multiple projects for others.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You have far greater reserves to draw from than you might realize. This will become evident when you have to deal with an unexpected challenge, and you'll do so with aplomb and ginger.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** This can be a good day for launching a new endeavor, especially if there are other people involved. Although, it might be up to you to prime the pump — do so!
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Developments are stirring that could enhance your security. Any dealings you have that directly affect your status and material circumstances should work out swimmingly.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't neglect getting in touch with one of your benevolent contacts who is presently separated from you by distance. Something good could come from re-establishing a line of communication.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You're a tough customer to deceive because you won't take anything for granted or at face value. However, even if you catch someone fibbing, you won't blow things out of proportion.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Because of your desire to be cooperative, others will find you a jovial presence. Any concessions you make will be matched with equal vigor.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't waste any more time in focusing efforts on your most ambitious objectives. What has been unattainable in the past is likely to be achieved with relative ease at this juncture.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Check out anything new that you would like to learn. Your ability to absorb knowledge and information is keener than usual, enabling you to pick things up quite quickly.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Provided you leave nothing up to chance, the end results that you were hoping for will come to pass. However, carefully monitor every step you take.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Due to support that was previously denied, sunshine could now be filtering into several situations that have recently been shrouded by dark clouds.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** It could be an interesting day, one where you will finally begin to generate some increased earnings. Do the best job that you can, because your rewards will be proportionate to your productivity.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Cause, as havoc
6 Battery terminal
11 Zoo staffer
14 Accord maker
15 Exit ramp sight
16 Drop the ball
17 Twice as curious
18 Ms. Jong
19 Shad eggs
20 Magnani and Paquin
22 Winter quaff
24 Said hello
28 Refuses to obey
29 Shutter part
30 Are around
32 French friar
33 Allots
35 Dinner checks
39 Yves' eve
40 Lapel ornament
41 John, in Siberia
42 Flower holder
43 Do some roadwork
45 ... for a ___ pittance
46 Weight unit
48 Come from the shadows
50 Insect sounds
53 Wall covering
54 Less cooked
55 Devious moves
57 Big Band __
58 Mirage sights
60 People of northern Iraq
65 Two-BR unit
66 Familiar saying
67 Chopin opus
68 A Stooge
69 Turbine part
70 Beatrice's admirer

Down
1 Owl's query?
2 Retina cell
3 Draw to a close
4 Fruity drink
5 Self-defense art
6 Revise
7 Ibsen woman
8 __ Redding of rhythm and blues
9 Solstice mo.
10 Pleases greatly
11 "Rigoletto" composer
12 Carve a canyon
13 Poker pair
21 Dweeb
23 Frequently (var.)
24 Window covering
25 C-3P0 or R2-D2
26 Pianist __ Blake
27 For keeps, to Keats
28 Bad-mouth
30 The upper crust
31 TV warrior princess
34 Sheik's cartel
36 Prevent from happening
37 River vessel
38 Dirty look
43 ER personnel
44 Bank on
47 Furor
49 Disguised
50 Fix potatoes
51 A Marx brother
52 Steamed
53 Tough question
55 Exam for jrs.
56 Construction toy
59 Shakespeare title word
61 Ms. Hagen
62 Compete in a marathon
63 Banned bug spray
64 Get the drift

	2			6	3			
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	9		5			6		3
5		2				3	1	
6			1	3	8			5
	1	7				4		8
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		1	2					
			3	1			2	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	1				5			
5	9		4			3	7	
1			2			6		
4			7		1			8
		9			8			1
	2	5			3		1	7
			9				2	
					7	5	6	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.
You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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music

Overwhelming powers of Darkness

- The feuding brothers in the hair-metal revival band still believe in a thing called love
- They put their differences aside for their first shows in the States in eight years

MARIANNE HARRIS

▶ The Darkness, from left, are drummer Ed Graham, bassist Frankie Poullain and the brothers Hawkins (aka Justin and Dan).

It might not be the most famous of Brit rock brotherly disharmonies, but the Darkness' singer Justin Hawkins and his guitarist brother Dan have had their fair share of sibling incivility. The brothers' lack of good communication was certainly one cause for such a long hiatus for the hair-metal revival band.

"There's a lot of stuff that we were getting bogged down in, and that was just not worth it, you know," Justin says via phone just after completing a sold-out autumn tour in the U.K.

"The whole 'life's too short' thing is a good lesson, really," he says.

A 13-date North American tour — the band's first trek to the U.S. in eight years — kicked off last night in Toronto. So far, after reuniting for Britain's Download Festival last June, it has been a triumphant return.

But it was triumph that factored into the band's original problems. After exploding in 2003 with their big hit, a catchy pop metal piece called "I Believe In A Thing Called Love," things went haywire. Reports of Justin's overindulgence in rock 'n' roll's mythical pleasures were rife, but the falsetto-ing frontman says it's the simple life for him from now on.

"When you have a simple existence and it's just about music, then you do great work. And I'm sure that's the same for everybody," he says. "The minute you start trying to balance other factors, it just becomes unmanageable."

LINDA LABAN
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Ambitious 'Collapse'

Justin Hawkins has put aside his hiatus side projects British Whale and Hot Leg, but says he'd like to write a musical soon.

"Not like a musical of our songs, but actually [one with] a storyline. I started to work on one that was called 'The Collapse Of The Lowestoft Fishing Industry,'" he says, referring to the band's hometown, a once lucrative fishing port. "It was going to be, like, the main character has lost his throat to cancer so you have to sing all the songs in a voice box."

More live music

Dum Dum Girls

Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.
Music Hall of Williamsburg
66 North Sixth St.
$15, 718-486-5400

Led by Kirstin Gundred (aka Dee Dee) West Coast band Dum Dum Girls bring their brand '60s girl-group indie pop and punkish, garage grit to New York in support of their recently released sophomore album "Only in Dreams," a record heavily influenced by the passing of Dee Dee's mother and the separate anxiety of being away from her husband while on tour.

MIKE HILLEARY

food&drink

RITES OF THE INDIVIDUAL BREW

▶ Steady as she goes: A barista pours in on at Blue Bottle Coffee.

Four Brooklyn coffee makers take a break from their daily grinds to weigh in on why pour-over brews stand the test of your time Plus, tips on how to savor But remember, take it as you like it

Brooklyn admittedly has a reputation for snobbery, but it can back it up. Case in point: coffee. The borough is brimming with local roasters and importers and individual pour-over brewers showing off their best beans, which are gaining steam in cafes, pop-ups and flea markets. The basic idea is simple, barring exact measurements: Pre-wet coffee in a dripper stacked atop a mug, let it steep, stir the grounds, slowly and steadily add more hot water and voila! In an age of instant gratification, what makes this affordable luxury of the starving artist worth the longer wait? We ask the brains behind four Brooklyn-headquartered coffee brands to chip in their two dollars and fifty cents.

There's something precious about the pour-over: Each cup is a one-of-a-kind testament to the complexities of the bean and the craft of the brewer. But it's also a culinary science. While Blue Bottle Coffee's James Freeman admits taste is a subjective experience, he defends the precision of pour-overs. "We can control the brewing ratio. In terms of an urn, you couldn't pack all that coffee in a basket," he says. "Coffee's a bit like butter — more is almost inevitably better than less. [Pour-overs] allow us to use more."

Manual quality control isn't just about quantity; baristas adjust the water's temperature, the length of the pour and, therefore, even distribution in a way machines can't. Crop to Cup's Taylor Mork explains that the dispersion of spray sets pour-overs and urns apart. "With the pour-over you can have an even extraction," he says. "You're not going to have grinds that are overextracted and bitter and some that are underextracted. Everything gets wet evenly." That's not to say the method always produces perfect results; rather, it offers flexibility.

Although meticulous, pour-overs are a labor of love. "If coffee comes with little effort, with the flick of the wrist out of a spigot, what is that saying?" asks Freeman. "Is it cherished and appreciated?" Waiting for an individual cup isn't an inconvenience because showmanship, artistry and camaraderie are priceless. Mork agrees. "To present the options of 'wait longer and pay more' or 'get quick and pay less,' pour-overs are one of the few things people will pay more for." Gimme! Coffee's Erin McCarthy counts those extra minutes as an opportunity to learn.

"To present the options of 'wait longer and pay more' or 'get quick and pay less,' pour overs are one of the few things people will pay more for."
TAYLOR MORK

"I like going to a shop where the barista knows what they're talking about and can tell me a snippet about the coffee, the farm it was grown on, who grew it, how it was processed," he says. Fellowship, it seems, better sweetens the coffee experience than sugar. "You've got to remember, people aren't coming to a cafe to drink coffee," says Kitten Coffee's Rowan Tuckfield. "They're coming for half an hour of pleasure."

If you're looking to brew at home, investing in a modest amount of equipment — a ceramic or plastic cone, an herb grinder, a pouring kettle — is necessary but cheap. Mork even suggests using a scale to measure water "if you want to go super geeky." Across the board, however, the experts insist on freshness. This

COURTESY OF GIMME! COFFEE

McCarthy's tips for the ultimate coffee drinking experience:

- **Drink the coffee "for here"**
- **Wait a couple of minutes for the coffee to cool before sipping.** "You can taste more as the temperature cools, and it will sweeten up, too. A lot of people don't realize this and add sugar before the coffee has cooled. It's like adding salt to well-cooked steak before tasting it."
- **Slurp it in a little bit, then roll it around in your mouth before you swallow.** "This will help you to taste more nuances in the coffee."
- **Smell it all the way.** "The dry grounds smell terrific, and you get a lot of really beautiful perfume-y, high notes from the wet aroma [the gasses that rise up while it's brewing]."
- **Go to a cafe where the baristas are knowledgeable.** "They can tell you the story of the coffee with confidence."
- **Bring a friend!** "I've had the best coffee tasting experiences when I was discovering a coffee with someone else."

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EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

means buying coffee in small volumes, storing it for up to two weeks in an airtight container in a dry cupboard, and grinding the beans just before brewing. "It's all about volatile hermetics, which is a fancy way of saying beautiful aromas that evaporate once you grind the coffee," says Tuckfield. "And your sense of taste is based on smell." Freeman argues that grinding beans on a cup-by-cup basis is about more than fragrance. "Some people are like, 'I don't have time to grind my coffee.' It makes me sad when people say that. What else don't you have time for? Investing time in sensual pleasure is important!"

Ultimately, there's no right or wrong way to savor an individual brew — it's your own, and that's the beauty of it. Tuckfield advises to trust your palette. "If you want to put syrup in your coffee, put bloody syrup in it," he laughs. "There are some people who say that you should never put anything in coffee, but if you put a little sugar and milk in your coffee — like everyone else in the world does — that's just fine. Find the method that pleases you most."

Sure, exclusivity may be snobbish, but certainly not freedom of choice.

GINA ANGELOTTI
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Quoted: Coffee talk

James Freeman

Owner, Blue Bottle Coffee
www.bluebottlecoffee.net
What's stirring: A Rockefeller Center location

On maxing out: *"I can drink for professional reasons or also sheer pleasure and it's kind of nice to have the option of doing either/or. I like to think of it as drinking champagne at a party — you're carrying your cup around and the hostess refills and at the end of the night you say, 'I just had one glass of champagne.'"*

Taylor Mork

Director, Crop to Cup
www.croptocup.com
What's stirring: Pour-overs at the Brooklyn Flea

On sustainability: *"I tend to not think we jam this whole farm-direct thing down people's throats. We try to have a helpful amount of information about each coffee, but not greenwash. The more flowery you are with your language — a lot of it doesn't matter. [Pour-over brewing] is the best way for people to notice the differences between origins."*

Erin McCarthy

Regional manager NYC, Gimme! Coffee
www.gimmecoffee.com
What's stirring: Free Samples of their $40 per pound Finca San Luis this Sunday at noon

On pleasure: *"I love to smell the coffee when it's freshly ground and also when it is brewing — the gases are amazing. These two stages are just as much a part of me enjoying a cup as the taste. When I'm tasting it, I usually suck in and aerate a bit — if I'm in public, not too loud or obnoxiously, but I want the coffee to spray my whole mouth, hitting all my taste buds."*

Rowan Tuckfield

Owner, Kitten Coffee
www.kittencoffee.com
What's stirring: Two more pop-up shops

On refining your palette: *"With coffee there's really beautiful flavors but there's also really disgusting flavors. And if you're not careful, you pull them out. It's like having your first glass of really good whisky. Once you've tasted [good coffee], it's like, 'that's what all the fuss is about.' Then you start getting your vocabulary around the defects."*

The Kitten Coffee delivery Lorry

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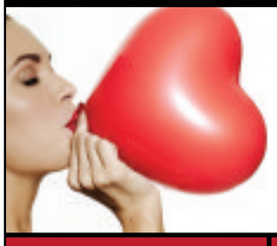

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Hot chef: Sebastien Agez, Plein Sud

Hot chef

Chef Sebastien Agez has honed his skills in some of New York's most iconic kitchens — Tavern on the Green, The Russian Tea Room and Cafe Des Artistes, to name a few. Now, he brings his native French fare to Tribeca's Plein Sud, located in the Smyth Hotel, where he serves bold Provencal flavors as the newly named executive chef.

You were born in France and spent part of your career there. How is cooking for an American audience different from cooking for a French audience?
It is the same. I do not cook differently for any kind of audience. The French and Americans may approach food differently; but for me, it is important to bring people together for solid back-to-basics cooking.
Did you always want to cook French food? Is there another kind of cuisine you love to make (or eat)?
As a native Parisian, yes. I began my career in the Corporate Executive Dining Room of Hachette Fillipacchi Presse in Paris. I had the privilege of working in a two-star Michelin restaurant, L'Amphycles, where I learned consistency and creativity from prestigious culinary artisans. French food is my heart and soul. When I moved to the States, I had a variety of experiences working for embassies which required me to cook different types of cuisine, from Cyprian to Afghanistani, from Belgian to Asian. Every type is interesting and you find new tastes to incorporate into your cooking. My favorites are Moroccan and Persian.
You're stepping in for another chef. What do you want to do differently? What is your vision?
Each chef is different. The prior chef offered more of what I would call a French-inspired "modern American" menu. My goal is to reintroduce the classics. We have revamped menus that combine hearty Provencal dishes with bistro fare. My vision is casual, French fine dining that is approachable and straightforward. While I offer the classics, I also hope to continue to add my own creations. One thing that remains important to me wherever I work is the understanding that everyone is important in the kitchen. Without the dishwashers and line cooks, I would not be able to do my job.
How do you balance the dining room expectations with those of hotel guests?
It is always a challenge. We have to balance the expectations of the Smyth Hotel guests by offering familiar dishes such as a shrimp cocktail or a burger. The Le Burger Royale — an 8-ounce stuffed cheeseburger with black truffle aioli served with frites — is one of our best-selling items. For the adventurous traveler, there is also an "a la Carte" menu to experience the more classic French dishes. I have also found that the downtown dining scene requires vegetarian options and created new items — such as the Red Beet Tartare with pine nuts, chives and mache salad — that satisfy those requests.
What meal would you cook to impress a date?
As a married man, I won't reveal my secrets. For the men reading this, Plein Sud offers the perfect intimate atmosphere to take a date and it is not too late to make your Valentine's Day reservations. Come dine at 85 West Broadway and I will personally make sure that you are wined and dined as if you were in France.

EMMANUEL FAURE

▶ Sebastien Agez is the new executive chef at Plein Sud (85 West Broadway, 212-204-5555).

Q&A

What's your favorite dish to cook on the menu?

The Caramelized Sea Scallops with Pearl Pasta "Caviar" and Saffron Sauce. This is a dish that I personally created and people really enjoy the flavors and presentation. It requires French technique (Beurre Blanc) along with Italian (pearl pasta cooked like a risotto). A purely French dish on the menu that I like to cook, the Pot au Feu, is a clear stew of brisket, bone marrow and vegetables.

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Music listings

Jay-Z

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 7 at 8:30 p.m., Carnegie Hall
154 W. 57th St.
$20 +, 212-247-7800
Coming off a high-profile tour with Kanye West behind their collaborative "Watch the Throne" LP, proud new papa and hip-hop great Jay-Z is scheduled to perform one his most intimate shows in years at Carnegie Hall. It will raise money for the United Way of New York City and the Shawn Carter Scholarship Foundation to help fight poverty and get low-income students into college.

Björk: 'Biophilia'

Feb. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 22, 25, 28 and March 2
New York Hall of Science and the Roseland Ballroom
47-01 111th St., 239 West 52nd St., $75-$150, 718-699-0005
The Icelandic music experimentalist begins her 10-night residency in New York to perform her scientific musical "Biophilia," accompanied by a 24-piece choir, custom-made instruments (including Tesla coils, pendulum harps and something called a "gameleste") and universe-expanding visuals. **MIKE HILLEARY**

INEZ VAN LAMSWEERDE & VINOODH MATADIN

▶ Björk

It all starts up front for Giants

Defensive line should be major advantage for New York ◗ Pierre-Paul leads front four looking to harass Brady ◗ Stop the run, let rushers attack

Quoted

"I'm not saying we can't be beaten. Any team in the NFL can be beaten. But we are not going to be denied at this point."

GIANTS S ANTREL ROLLE, MAYBE CLARIFYING HIS NONGUARANTEE

3

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ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jason Pierre-Paul, seen here at Media Day, will be a major key in getting pressure on Tom Brady and forcing him into mistakes.

The defense, specifically the defensive line, knows what's at stake. And more importantly, they realize they hold the keys to slowing down Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

The last time these two teams met, Nov. 6 in New England, the Giants' pass rush harassed Brady into uncharacteristic mistakes, including two interceptions.

"We have to get after him; that's what we have to do," defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul said. "If not, he can pick our defense [apart]. He can throw the ball even if our coverage is very good. That's scary. But as defensive linemen we just have to get to him fast enough. We need to get to him fast. … It all starts up front."

Pierre-Paul led the Giants with 16.5 sacks and has arguably the quickest on-the-snap first step of all the Giants linemen. Despite the other well-known veterans on the team, like defensive ends Osi Umenyiora and Justin Tuck, the veterans still marvel at Pierre-Paul's natural ability to disrupt the passing game.

"He's a huge part of our defense," linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka said of Pierre-Paul. "When you look at the kinds of things he does, not just speed and power, but his understanding of our defense and what offenses are trying to do to him, is amazing. It makes them account for him on every single play, regardless of what they are trying to do."

Defensive tackle Linval Joseph added that despite the fact New England seems like a pass-happy offense, they are very effective at gashing defenses with the run if they focus solely on attacking Brady.

"Pressure and hits on him are most important," Joseph said. "Because we can make him flinch or move to spots and do things he doesn't want to do."

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

20

The difference in sacks to sacks allowed by the Giants versus opponents. The defense had 48 sacks this season, while allowing just 28 total as an offensive line.

Umenyiora fined $20K for absence

INDIANAPOLIS. Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora found out you don't mess with the media.

Umenyiora missed yesterday's media session and was fined $20,000 for his transgression.

For his part, Umenyiora apologized immediately. He said it wasn't intentional and a mere misunderstanding.

"I misunderstood the schedule," Umenyiora said. "It won't happen again, and I will be at tomorrow's media session and available after the game. I apologize for any inconvenience my absence this morning may have caused."

For comparison's sake, Giants safety Kenny Phillips was fined just $7,500 for a helmet-to-helmet hit in last week's NFC championship game against the 49ers.

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Fantasy basketball is a category game, not a raw points game. Winning rebounds is nice, but it's not worth anything more than winning free-throw percentage. If we build our team around the less glamourous categories, we'll be ahead of the game.

Use the player rater

If I told you Marc Gasol is a top-5 fantasy player, would you be surprised? Only three players are averaging at least 2.0 blocks, 1.0 steals and shooting at least 50 percent from the field: Gasol, JaVale McGee and Dwight Howard. Sneaky categories rule the player rater.

Attack with defense

Adding a pure scorer to your team isn't going to generate much movement in the points category. But adding an elite thief or shot-blocker can turn things around in a hurry. While 23 players are clustered between 16.0 and 22.0 points per game, just nine block 2.0 shots or more. And only six nab 2.0 steals a night.

Key percentages

Although one player can't win you free-throw or field-goal percentage, one guy can lose it for you. We should be simply ignoring high-volume gunners like Stephen Jackson, Danny Granger and DeMar DeRozan. And if a guy gets to the line five times a game, he better be shooting at least 70 percent. Howard, Blake Griffin and Josh Smith are category-killers.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Marc, not Pau Gasol, is currently a top-5 fantasy player.

Baseball bullpens

Wrapping our brains around who will get the saves is vital to a successful season. Some closers in new homes:

1 **Jonathan Papelbon, PHL** — The Phillies gave Paps $50 million to be their ninth-inning man. His career 2.33 ERA and 1.02 WHIP will fit well with Ryan Madson gone.

2 **Sergio Santos, TOR** — This Blue Jays team won 81 games a year ago and is getting better. Santos, acquired in a trade with the White Sox, will have plenty of chances.

3 **Andrew Bailey, BOS** — It's all about health with Bailey. When available, he's among the most dominant relievers in the game.

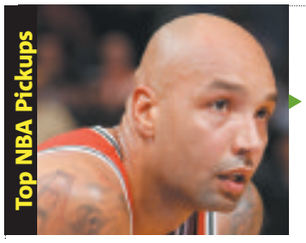
NFL News

Peyton place

No one knows if **Peyton Manning** (neck) will be able to play football in 2012.

But if he does, it almost certainly won't be as a Colt. The entire offense, from Dallas Clark to Donald Brown to Pierre Garcon is going to be overvalued. Despite the hype, Andrew Luck is not Peyton Manning.

Top NBA Pickups



Drew Gooden

▶ **C, Bucks**
With Andrew Bogut (ankle) possibly done for the season, the Bucks' offense will revolve around Gooden. Averaging 17.3 points and 8.9 boards as a starter this year.

Roddy Beaubois

▶ **G, Mavericks**
Jason Kidd is breaking down in terms of both health and effectiveness at age 38. The future is now for Beaubois, who once scored 40 in a game back in 2010.

Trevor Booker

▶ **PF, Wizards**
Even if Andray Blatche (calf) was healthy, Booker would be pushing him. The second-year man plays the right way, leading to blocks, steals and strong field-goal percentage.

LARRY FRENCH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Recruit Darius Hamilton is the son of 12-year Giants lineman Keith Hamilton.

Rutgers inks recruiting class

It looked like Rutgers football was heading toward an ugly U-turn when Greg Schiano announced he was ending his 11-year stint with the program to become head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Recruits talked about jumping ship, but as the faxes began pouring in to the team's facilities on national signing day yesterday, it was clear that the tide had turned again.

20 The Scarlet Knights signed 20 players yesterday, including one quarterback, four wide-outs and a running back.

Head coach Kyle Flood, who had officially been on the job less than 48 hours secured the commitment of three top recruits. Five-star defensive end Darius Hamilton of Don Bosco Prep announced his commitment Tuesday on live TV while three-star athlete Jevon Tyree of South Brunswick and Maryland three-star wide receiver Ian Thomas were surprise decisions on yesterday morning.

"Every year we've been able to — more and more — build that wall around the 'State of Rutgers,' so that the players in our area are coming to play for us — the top players," Flood said.

"And when a guy like Darius Hamilton does that on TV, what it does is it gives more validity to what we tell the people in this local area."

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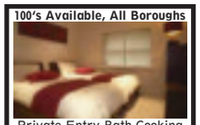

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of Nedlaw Enterprises LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on January 12, 2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, % Neil D. Ash, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 1507, New York, NY 10168. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # 1260746 for liquor, wine & beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell liquor, wine & beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law 323 W Broadway, NY, NY 10013. New York County, for on premise consumption. B & Y Restaurant Group LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # 1260738 for wine & beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell wine & beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 27 1/2 Morton St. aka 60 Bedford St. NY, NY 10014. New York County, for on-premise consumption. Zossima Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW that the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from Four Green Fields LLC. to continue to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 140 Seventh Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan, for a term of two years.

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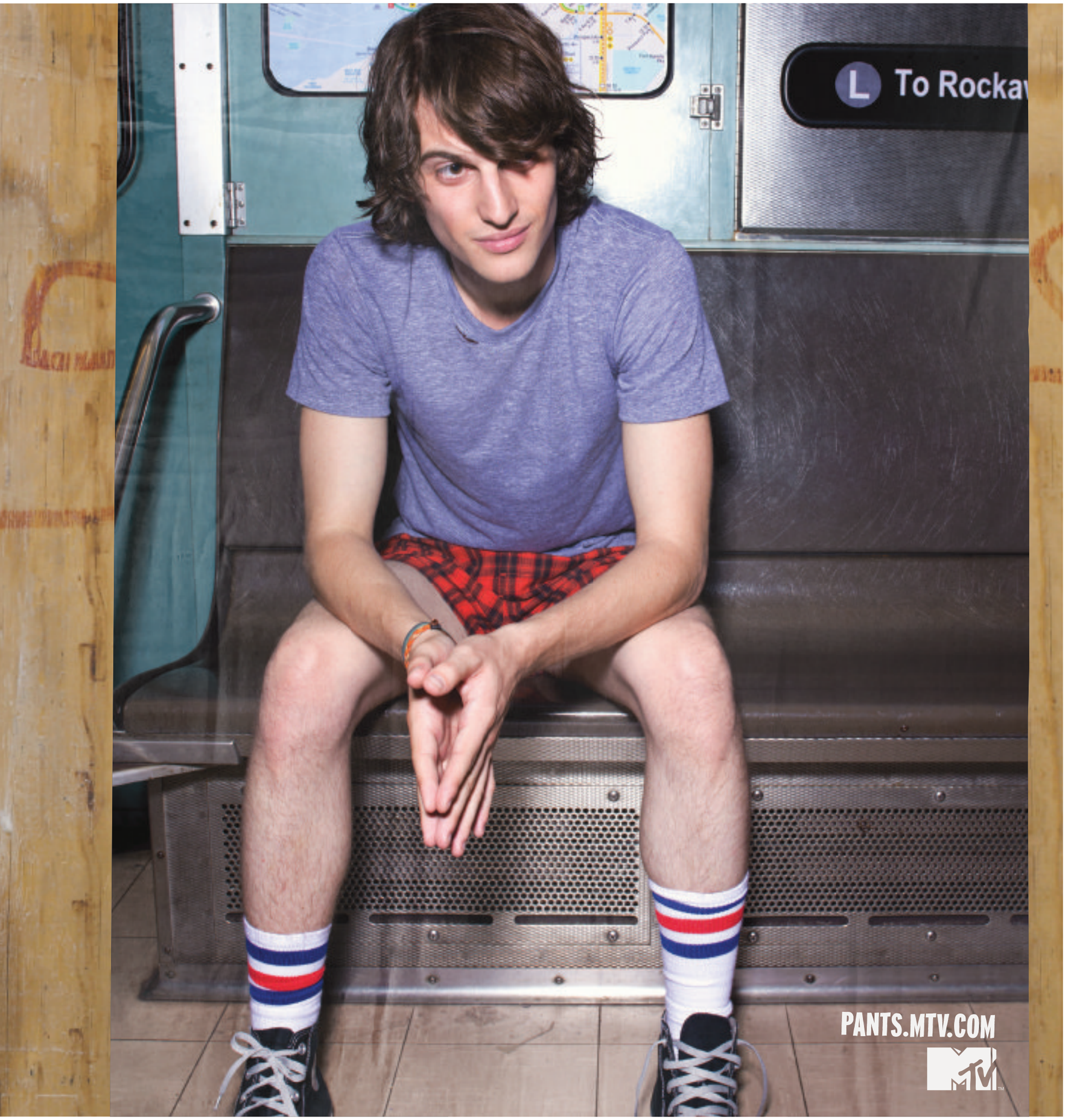
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